

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of providing network configuration data, the method comprising:
  - receiving a data-carrying optical signal;
  - providing control information;
  - modulating said data-carrying optical signal using said control information such that said optical signal carries both said data and said control information; and
  - transmitting said modulated optical signal.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said modulating said data-carrying optical signal using said control information such that said optical signal carries both said data and said control information comprises:
  - providing said data-carrying optical signal to a spatial light modulator comprised of an array of modulator elements; and
  - providing said control data to said spatial light modulator array, said control data determining the state of said modulator elements such that said spatial light modulator modulates said optical signal.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said providing said data-carrying optical signal to a spatial light modulator comprises:
  - providing said data-carrying optical signal to a digital micromirror device.
4. The method of Claim 2, wherein said providing said control data to said spatial light modulator array, said control data determining the state of said modulator elements such that said spatial light modulator modulates said optical signal comprises:

providing said control data to said spatial light modulator array, said control data determining the state of said modulator elements such that said spatial light modulator modulates said optical signal at a 5% to 15% extinction level.

TI-31573-036660